

Considerations when selecting Student Partners

Student-Staff Partnership Projects

This document is designed to guide Project Leaders (Students or Staff) in selecting Student Partners for Projects. By no means is this document exhaustive, but rather seeks to prompt reflection when selecting Student Partners.

Diversity & Inclusion

The University of Queensland prides itself on its place as an inclusive and diverse global campus that includes students and staff from a wide range of backgrounds. With more than 1 out of 5 students enrolled as international, a thriving LGBTIQ+ community, and a commitment to gender equity, it is important for partnership projects to reflect these unique perspectives and experiences of our community. Some ways in which you can ensure these diverse perspectives are captured are by selecting students who may classify themselves as:

- Domestic and International
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

- Different cultural and linguistic backgrounds
- Students with varying disabilities and/or
- Having work and caring responsibilities.

Another important factor is ensuring a gender balance. Student Partners have expressed that an equal gender mix helps to ensure that partners feel as comfortable as possible in participating.

Team size

When choosing your team, it is important to be aware of how different group sizes will interact. As the Project Leader, you will have to decide how many Student Partners will be required to achieve your project goals. Larger teams offer more diverse perspectives and skill sets, however can be more difficult to arrange mutual meeting times. As a general rule of thumb, we find that groups of 3 to 4 work well, however this will depend upon your scope and desired outcomes.



Skills and Experience

When selecting Student Partners, prioritise skills, motivation and knowledge. Choose members who are shown to be proactive, highly engaged with the community or who have a passion or interest on the topic.

When perusing the applications, take note of the experiences and think of how that transfers into useful knowledge and skills. For example, a student involved in peer support may have good access to a range of perspectives and practical experience to support a mentoring project.

Finally, reflect upon the skill sets that you envisage will be required for the project. For example, do you want to engage with a partner with multimedia design or focus group facilitation experience, or general teamwork skills? Reflect also on how the skills and experiences of all team members may complement each other.

If you require Student Partners to have completed a specific course or program, ensure that this has been addressed within their application.

Selection of Student Partners

You may also wish to conduct interviews (or meet) with the Student Partner applicants. Some previous Staff Partners have met with applicants to ensure that the personalities and expertise of all group members complemented each other. If you wish to conduct interviews, or meet with Partners prior to selection, this is to be arranged and conducted directly by yourself, and the list of successful partners must still be submitted by the originally provided deadline.

When you have selected the Student Partners you would like to participate on your project, please email their names and student numbers to SSP@uq.edu.au prior to the deadline provided.

Acknowledgement

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For further details, please contact:

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<https://employability.uq.edu.au/student-staff-partnerships>



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